Text-Dependent Questions for “An Indian’s Views of Indian Affairs”

Please answer the following questions in well thought out, complete sentences. Go back to the text to support your answers!

1. Who is Chief Joseph speaking to? How do you know?
2. What does Chief Joseph believe will be saved if everyone “opened their hearts more?” Why does he believe this?
3. Why does Chief Joseph speak and give his Indian name and Indian background? What is the significance of this? Explain.
4. What is Chief Joseph revealing about himself and his people by giving this speech? Explain.
5. How does Chief Joseph describe or classify his people? How do you know?
6. According to Chief Joseph, what do the Indians value? What were they given and by whom to guide their lives?
7. What are examples of the laws the Indians had? Give specific examples from the text.
8. Re-read the following sentence, “…that hereafter he will give every man a spirit-home according to his *deserts*: if he had been a good man, he will have a good home; if he has been a bad man, he will have a bad home.” What does the word *deserts* mean in this context?
9. What do you think the white man’s reaction to Chief Joseph’s speech was? Why?
10. What is your reaction to Chief Joseph’s speech?